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This somewhat roundabout statement of editorial policy has been respected by Dr. Payne—so that it would be manifestly unfair to look to his book for the verbal and intellectual sparkle of a Huneker or the psychological acumen of a James or of a Brownell. His miniature biographies are conservative—in the case of Emerson, one may say conventional; he has soberly retold the story that, in the case of two of his subjects, is well-worn; and he has added a useful volume to what promises to prove a useful series.

W. B. BLAKE.

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THE INFLUENCE OF MOLIERE ON RESTORATION COMEDY. By Dudley Howe Miles. New York: The Columbia University Press.

A study that was commenced at the University of Chicago, continued at the University of Columbia, and now issued in the latter's admirable *Studies in Comparative Literature*, in which it is a worthy successor. The book discusses Molière in his environment, the English comedy before and with the Restoration, and then relates the influence of the former upon the latter whenever this can be directly shown. There is a studied effort to reject all hitherto assumed influence which cannot be proved by a comparison of the plays. A valuable Appendix gives a list of English plays that show this influence. In this Dr. Miles sums up his conclusions by a direct reference to particular sources in Molière. A Bibliography is added.

G. L. S.

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RAMBLES IN SPAIN. By John D. FitzGerald. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Company.

This is an entertaining and instructive book of travels. The author is not the ordinary tourist who, after hastily traversing a foreign land, dots down his crude impressions. Formerly professor of the Spanish language and literature in Columbia University and now in the University of Illinois, Mr. FitzGerald went to Spain fully equipped and remained there for two years. He knows the country and its history. His book, based on letters written home at the time, is pleasant and easy reading; and it reveals an extensive acquaintance with the history and legends of the country. Now that photographs enable us to make

pictures of absolute fidelity, the illustrations of a book of travels are perhaps its most important part. One can get a better idea of a scene from a photograph than from volumes of description. This handsome volume is adorned with great numbers of excellent plates, most of them made from photographs taken by the author; and from its pictures alone one gets an excellent idea of the most notable objects of interest in the Peninsula.

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LIFE IN THE ROMAN WORLD OF NERO AND ST. PAUL. By T. G. Tucker, Litt. D., Camb., Professor of Classical Philology in the University of Melbourne. New York: The Macmillan Company.

"I firmly believe," writes Dr. Tucker, "that the one hope for classical learning and education lies in the interest which the unlearned public may be brought to feel in ancient life and thoughts." From this the plan of his work may readily be inferred. The volume is a series of detached essays on Roman life. It is enriched with much illustrative and other matter recently contributed by archæology, and evinces on the part of the author a scholarly familiarity with his theme, and a sincere desire to effect his avowed purpose of rendering it popular.

Through the very stress of this desire, however, the author has sometimes marred his effort by a lack of dignity, which contributes neither to enlivenment nor interest. The book is of uneven merit, and lacking both in vitality, which its theme assuredly does not in itself lack, and in the fundamental deficiency of constructive historical imagination. It is readable, but disappointing.

I. B.

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THE SEA KINGS OF CRETE. By the Rev. James Baikie. New York: The Macmillan Company.

This is a valuable contribution to our archæological knowledge of the Mediterranean Island, which seems to hold the secret of the Homeric civilization. It contains a retelling of the legends, an account of the researches and discoveries of Schliemann and later explorers; pictures of the civilization that existed under the Sea Kings; and numerous illustrations; and though scientific in its main purpose, has all the charm of a popular history.